



Schemes/Role of Indian Governments, State Governments and NGOS towards Women Empowerment: A brief Study

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Abstract:

With the aim of changing the social attitude towards the girl children in India and uplifting their standing in society, a range of girl child schemes have been initiated across India. Such schemes may be broadly classified into two categories – Central Government Schemes and State Government Schemes.

Central Government sponsored girl child schemes are administered by the central government and can be availed by the girl child and their parents irrespective of which part of India they reside in. The following are key features of the most important central government girl child schemes in India. The Central Government Schemes for girl child have been launched across India with the goal of improving the social attitude toward female children in India. These schemes also aim at elevating their status in society. Several central government initiatives, saving schemes and all under-government programmes for a girl child have been introduced in India in recent years. These programs have been a vital element of assisting females on a national as well as state-by-state basis.

In this paper we have discussed some schemes and programmes of central governments and several state Governments towards Girls, Child and women empowerment. Here we also mentioned the role of NGOS for girls and women towards empowerment.

Key words: Central governments schemes, Women empowerment, state Governments, NGO

Introduction:

The Government of India, at all levels, announces welfare schemes for a diverse group of people on a regular basis. These schemes could be central, state-specific, or a cooperative effort between the central government and the state governments. The intent of these programs is to help the poor, economically disadvantaged, rural residents, and other vulnerable members of society. They aim at the social and economic well-being of every Indian citizen. The Union Government Schemes are the initiatives of India's Ministries of the Central

Government. These programs play a critical part in addressing the country's socio economic issues. They assist with the upliftment of the most disadvantaged members of society by providing them with basic and necessary amenities.

Indian women are struggling for equality and the acceptance in a society which still hails men at the pinnacle of social hierarchy. A negative sex ratio and lesser work participation and literacy rate as reported in census data are the confirmation of the gender discrimination which both actively and passively influences the demography. Government of India has taken enough initiative to promote women empowerment by introducing different schemes and policies, which not only improves the social status of the female population, but also as a solution of different social plights like maternal mortality, female infanticides, female foeticide. Apart from government schemes, different bill and acts from both pre and post-Independence period. The Government of India has introduced several schemes that focus on women and aims to provide them with their due social dignity and ensure ways of earning. As the past of Indian society is filled with stances of gender inequality, the Government has come forward to bring equality at every level, empower women and uplift child education.

Every authority wants to have a progressive vision. A revolutionary enterprise is expected with a tolerant perspective. Thus different programs and schemes are launched by the government to pacify the society from the fiery discord that recoil the progress towards any unexpected social catastrophe. The government operating both in pre independence and post independent phases has also taken necessary steps to introduce new regulations that reduce the social hostilities towards women. Social issues like inequality in sex ratio and lower literacy rate are prioritised. These inequalities have compelled the government to certify the issue related to women and introduced different schemes and acts to fight with the atrocities against the women and uplift their spirit greater opportunity for contribution in country's economy and development.

In modern Indian development circles, non-governmental organisations are now conducting many more roles including role of NGOs in women development and several activities than they did a few years ago. Empowering women is the major focus of government and non government organisation in India. Women who are empowered have a feminist principle and hope to empower other deprived women. There are several feminist NGOs which are empowering women to make sure that they get all the deserving rights in the country.

Objectives:

- Raising self-esteem and self-confidence of women.
- Elimination of discrimination and all forms of violence against women and girl child.
- Enforcement of constitutional and legal provisions and safeguarding rights of women.
- Equitable availability of health services for women, affordable schooling at all stages, ;
- Altering social traits and civic activities by constructive involvement and responsibility of men and women respectively.
- To modify a gender perspective throughout the process of development;
- Reducing sexism and other types of abuse against women and girls;
- To know the need of Women Empowerment.
- To study the Government Schemes For Women Empowerment.
- To assess the Awareness of Women Empowerment in India.
- To utilize the Govt. schemes properly for the benefit of Women Empowerment.
- Adapt content so that it is meaningful for them.
- To Create a safe environment for them to share and learn.
- Developing a framework for the effective empowerment of women by effective economic and social initiatives so that they can achieve equality.

- Equivalent exposure to women's engagement and decision-making in the country's civil, political, and economic activities.
- To discuss on the features which NGO requires to be effective in its functions. □
- To identify the strategies followed by NGOs towards women empowerment. □
- To identify the objectives of NGO that is focused towards women empowerment.

Several Women Empowerment Schemes by Central Government:

- **Mahila E-haat (2016):** A direct online marketing platform launched by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, this scheme is made to support women entrepreneurs. This is also part of the 'Digital India' initiative. You can register yourselves at www.mahilaahaat-rmk.gov.in.
- **Swadhar Greh (2002):** The Swadhar scheme was launched by the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development in 2002, for the rehabilitation of women living in difficult situations. This scheme is meant to provide shelter, food, clothing and care to marginalized women and girls who are in need. The beneficiaries include widows deserted by their families and relatives, women prisoners released from jail and without family support, women survivors of natural disasters, women victims of terrorist/extremist violence etc. The implementing agencies are mainly NGOs.
- **Nari Shakti Puruskars (2016):** The Nari Shakti Puruskars are national-level awards that recognize the efforts made by women and institutions that make a difference in women's lives, especially vulnerable and marginalized women. The awards are presented by the President of India every year on March 8 - International Women's Day - at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi.
- **STEP (1986-87):** The Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women (STEP) Scheme aims to provide skills that give employability to women and to provide competencies and skill that enable women to become self-employed/ entrepreneurs. A particular project will be for a duration of up to 5 years depending upon the nature, kind of activities and the number of beneficiaries to be undertaken. Sectors include Agriculture, Horticulture, Food Processing, Handlooms, Tailoring, Stitching, Embroidery, Zari etc, Handicrafts, Computer & IT enable services along with soft skills and skills for the workplace such as spoken English, Gems & Jewellery, Travel & Tourism, Hospitality, etc.
- **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme (2015):** It was launched on January 22, 2015, by the P.M of India "to ensure survival, protection and education of the girl child. BBBP is a combination of three ministries- Women and Child Development, Health & Family Welfare and Human Resource Development". The major objectives are to help remove gender-based discrimination, to protect the girl child and to provide them with education and enabling her participation.
- **One Stop Centre Scheme(2015):** Launched on April 1, 2015, it intends to provide 24 hours immediate and emergency response to women affected by the violence, both in private and public spaces. Women Helpline (WHL) has been established in every State and Union Territory to provide integrated support and assistance to women across the country through a single uniform number. These centres will be integrated with 181 along with other existing helplines.
- **Women Helpline Scheme (2015):** It came into effect on April 1, 2015. It intends to give 24 hours immediate and emergency response to women affected by the violence, both in private and public spaces. Women Helpline (WHL) has been established in every State and Union Territory to provide integrated support and assistance to

women across the country through a single uniform number. Tollfree Women helpline no. 181 has been defined as Unrestricted (shall be accessible from anywhere—national and international).

- **UJJAWALA (1st April 2016):** It is a Comprehensive Scheme for Prevention of trafficking and Rescue, Rehabilitation and Re-integration of Victims of Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation: The scheme is implemented by agencies like the Social Welfare/Women and Child Welfare Department of State Government, Women's Development Corporations, Women's Development Centres, Urban Local Bodies, reputed Public/Private Trust or Voluntary Organizations. The agency should be registered under the law and must have a properly constituted Managing Body with its powers, duties and responsibilities clearly defined and laid down in its Constitution.
- **Working Women Hostel Scheme (1972-73):** The Government of India had introduced a scheme in 1972-73 of grant-in-aid for construction of new/expansion of existing buildings for providing hostel facilities to working women in cities, smaller towns and also in rural areas where employment opportunities for women exist. This scheme has been revised to promote availability of safe and conveniently located accommodation for working women who need to live away from their families due to professional commitments. The new scheme was launched on April 6th, 2017.
- **Awardees of Stree Shakti Puruskar (2014):** The government of India instituted 5 national awards which are called 'Stree Shakti Puraskar' — a measure to recognise the achievements of individual women in the field of social development. The award consists of a cash prize of Rs 1 Lakh and a citation. The awards are on the names of eminent women personalities in India history, viz. Devi Ahilya Bai Holkar, Kannagi, Mata Jijabai, Rani Gaidenlou Zeliang and Rani Laxmibai awards.
- **Awardees of Rajya Mahila Samman & Zila Mahila Samman (2015):** Conferred from 2015 onwards. These awards would recognise and reward selfless work done by exceptional and committed women at the community and grassroots level. One award one very district and one in each State/UT.
- **Mahila Police Volunteers (2016):** "They would act as a link between police and the community and facilitate women in distress. The MPVs will be chosen by the Home Department of the concerned State/UT through the Superintendent of Police of the district. The MPV will directly report to the Circle Inspector in the Police Thana".
- **Mahila Shakti Kendras (MSK) (2017):** "For empowering rural women through community participation and to create an environment in which they realize their full potential. It will provide an interface for rural women to approach the government for availing their entitlements also empowering them through training and capacity building".
- **NIRBHAYA Fund (2012):** "For projects specifically designed to improve the safety and security of women. It is a non-lapsable corpus fund, being administered by Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance."
- **Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) (2017) :** Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY), is a erstwhile Maternity Benefit Programme. It has been contributing towards better enabling environment by providing cash incentives for improved health and nutrition to pregnant and nursing mothers. Scheme for Adolescent Girls aims at girls in the age group 11-18, to empower and improve their social status through nutrition, life skills, home skills and vocational training
- **Pradhan Mantri Mahila Shakti Kendra scheme(2017-2018):**

Government of India has approved a new scheme namely, Pradhan Mantri Mahila Shakti Kendra (MSK) for 2017-18 upto 2019-20 to empower rural women through community participation and to create an environment in which they realize their full potential.

The new scheme is envisaged to work at various levels. While, National level (domain based knowledge support) and State level (State Resource Centre for Women) structures will provide technical support to the respective government on issues related to women, the District and Block level Centres will provide support to MSK and also give a foothold to BBBP in 640 districts to be covered in a phased manner. It promote community participation through involvement of Student Volunteers for empowerment of rural women.

- **National Creche Scheme(2017):** It provides day care facilities to children of age group of 6 months to 6 years of working women who are employed. Ministry of Women and Child Development is implementing the National Creche Scheme for Children of Working Mothers as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme through States/UTs with effect from 01.01. 2017 to provide day care facilities to children (age group of 6 months to 6 years) of working mothers.
- **Rastriya Mahila Kosh (RMK) (1993):** Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (RMK), established in 1993 is a national level organization as an autonomous body under the aegis of the Ministry of Women and Child Development, for socio-economic empowerment of women. It provide micro-credit to poor women for various livelihood support and income generating activities at concessional terms in a client-friendly procedure to bring about their socio-economic development.
- **Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme (1975):** The scheme was launched in 1975, discontinued in 1978 by the government of Morarji Desai, and then relaunched by the Tenth Five Year Plan. Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme is being implemented through States/UTs with the aim of holistic development of children upto 6 years of age and to meet nutritional needs of pregnant women and lactating mothers.
- **Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) (2009-2010):** This scheme (now Child protection Services) is being implemented through the State Government/UT Administrations to create a safe and secure environment for overall development of children in need of care and protection in urban and semi-urban areas. ICPS is based on the principles of 'protection of child rights' and 'best interests of the child' and aims to institutionalize services for emergency outreach, family and community based care, counseling and support. ICPS sensitizes functionaries in the system towards child protection, and raise public awareness
- **Sukanya Samridhi Yojana (2014):**

Sukanya Samridhi Yojana is a government scheme that was launched in the year 2014 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Sukanya Samridhi Yojana is a Small Savings Scheme of the Government of India meant exclusively for a girl child. The scheme is meant to meet the education and marriage expenses of a girl child. Sukanya Samridhi Yojana (SSY) is a government-backed small savings scheme for the benefit of girl child. It is a part of the Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao Yojana and can be opened by the parents of a girl child below the age of 10. It can be opened at designated banks or post offices. A SSY Account has a tenure of 21 years or until the girl child marries after the age of 18.

- **Dhanalakshmi Scheme(2008):**

The Dhanalakshmi Scheme was launched as a pilot project by the central government in March 2008 for providing conditional cash incentives to low-income families with girl children. However, as a result of more attractive schemes introduced by the government over the years, Dhanalakshmi scheme is now done away with.

The following were the key states where the Dhanalakshmi Scheme pilot project was implemented: Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Orissa, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh.

The pilot project of this girl child welfare scheme was run in specific blocks of the above states which were selected on the basis of their lower than average girl child sex ratio (as compared to rest of India). The primary goal of providing cash incentives under this scheme was to promote education and improve the well-being of the girl child, especially those belonging to economically and educationally backward classes.

● **CBSE Udaan Scheme (2014):**

New Delhi, Nov 14 (IANS) With the aim to promote educational opportunities among girl students and address the challenge of lower girl enrolment rates in engineering colleges, the CBSE's Udaan scheme was launched . The CBSE Udaan scheme for girls is administered by the Central Board of Secondary Education through the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India. The focus of this scheme is to increase the enrollment of girls in prestigious engineering and technical colleges across India. The scheme includes efforts that are made in order to enrich the learning experience with special focus of girl students who are from the economically backward sections of society.

The following are the key features of the CBSE Udaan Scheme:

- The free course material/online resources such as video study material for girl students in 11th and 12th standard is
- Virtual contact classes on weekends for girl students in 11th and 12th
- Peer learning and mentoring opportunities for meritorious girl students.
- Study helpline services to clarify the doubts of students.
- Constant monitoring and tracking of students' progress.

State Government Sponsored Schemes

State Government Sponsored Schemes for Girl Child in India Apart from the central government, the Indian State governments also actively offer several schemes that benefit girl children. Some of these include:

● **Rajshri Yojna - Rajasthan (2016):**

Chief Minister's Rajshree Yojana of Rajasthan state was launched during June 2016. The objective of this scheme is to improve girl child literacy and welfare. From the birth of the girl child till class XII, financial assistance of up to 50,000 is provided to the parents/guardian for the education, health and care of the daughter.

The scheme's objective is to improve a girl child's literacy rate and look after their welfare. In this article, we will provide all the details about Rajshree Yojana, eligibility crIn Rajasthan, there are numerous instances of a girl child being deprived of their basic right to education. There was no effective plan in its education system to bring back dropout girls from school. So, this Mukhyamantri Rajshri Yojana will develop all girl students from backward and low-income families by offering financial assistance for basic education. iteria, documents required, benefits and registration process.

This scheme's main objective is to abolish child marriage and child mortality in society. This scheme aims to improve the girl child ratio and promotes education for girls in the state of Rajasthan. Mukhyamantri Rajshri Yojana has been implemented in both urban and rural areas of the state.

● **Girl child protection scheme - Andhra Pradesh (2005):**

Girl Child Protection Scheme is launched by the Women Development Child Welfare & Disabled Welfare Department on 8th March 2005. The main objective of Girl Child Protection Scheme is to provide protection to girl child and spread awareness in the society against female aborticide as well as women empowerment through education. This scheme helps to protect the rights of girl child and provide social and financial empowerment to girl child.

The Girl Child Protection Scheme of the Governments of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana is aimed at preventing gender discrimination by empowering and protecting rights of girl children through direct investment from Government. In case of a single girl child she is entitled to receive Rs. 1.00 lakh after completion of 20 years of age. In case of two girl children, both of them are entitled to receive Rs. 30,000/- each, after completion of 20 years age.

● **Sivagami Ammaiyar Memorial girl child protection scheme - Tamil Nadu (1992):**

This scheme was launched in the year April 1992 in order to lift the status of the girl children in the society and to abolish the practice of female infanticide. In the fond memory of the then Chief minister of Tamilnadu “Thiru Kamarajar”, the scheme was renamed as Sivagami Ammaiyar ninaivu girl child protection scheme in the year 2006. By the year 31st March 2010, 6192 girl children in the State of Tamilnadu are benefited.

Sivagami Ammaiyar Memorial girl child protection scheme is being implemented by the Social Welfare and Nutritious Meal Programme Department, Government of Tamil Nadu to provide financial assistance to the girl children in poor families.

● **Ladli Laxmi Yojana - Madhya Pradesh (2007):**

Ladli Laxmi Yojana was launched in Madhya Pradesh on 1st April 2007. In this scheme girl child born after 1st January 2006 will be benefitted. Parents who have opted for family planning after two girl child or those who are registered in Anganwadi centers and they are not taxpayers will get ₹. 2000 while taking admission in class 6, ₹ 4000 in class 9, and ₹ 200 per month for the two years after taking admission in class 11. The total amount will be provided after 21 year age of girl child.

● **Mazi Kanya Bhagyashree Scheme -Maharashtra (2017)**

From 1st August 2017, WCD Dept. Govt. of Maharashtra has started implementation of First-of-its-Kind scheme “Majhi Kanya Bhagyashree”. The Mazi Kanya Bhagyashree Scheme is a Government of Maharashtra promoted scheme that is designed to help improve the condition of girl child among the BPL and other weaker sections of society.

The girl child’s mother receives Rs. 5000 every year for the first 5 years after the birth of the girl child. Subsequently, financial aid of Rs. 2500 per year is provided till the girl child is enrolled in 5th class. After this, the financial aid is increased to Rs. 3000 per year till the girl child is enrolled in class 12. Once she attains the age of 18 years, she will receive Rs. 1 lakh annually for her education. Further payouts may be available to the girl child for further studies.

The application form for the Mazi Kanya Bhagyashree Scheme can be obtained from the local Anganwadi and submitted with the local Anganwadi worker along with all the applicable documents such as the birth certificate of the girl child. You can also get further details about this girl child scheme and download the Mazi Kanya Bhagyashree Scheme Application Form from the Maharashtra government official website.

● **Ladli - Delhi (2008)**

Delhi Ladli Scheme was launched by the Government of NCT of Delhi on 01.01. 2008 for empowerment of girl children born in Delhi. Under Ladli Yojna, a girl child born in last 1 year receives INR 11,000 (if born in a hospital/nursing home of Delhi) or INR 10,000 (if born at home). The government of NCT of Delhi has launched a new scheme called the Delhi Ladli Scheme for the protection of the girl child against discrimination. The scheme is effective from 1 January 2008 (Department of Women and Child Development, Delhi 2008).

● **Ladli -Haryana (2006)**

Ladli Pension Scheme was launched by the State Government of Haryana and it is. The prime aim of the Ladli Scheme is to uplift the female child's status and value in both her family and society as well. The scheme was launched in the year 2006. The girl child and her parents have to be resident of the State of Haryana. They should have the domicile certificate to prove their eligibility. It is mandatory for at least one parent to reside in Haryana with the girl child. There should be two girl children in the family.

● **Mukhyamantri Kanya Suraksha Yojna - Bihar (2008):**

Mukhya Mantri Kanya Suraksha Yojana was launched in 2008 in Bihar to assure both safety and security for the girl child. The objective of the scheme was to To prevent female foeticide and to promote the birth of girl child.

Under the Mukhya Mantri Kanya Suraksha Yojana, the Government of Bihar contributes Rs.2000/- for every Girl Child belonging to the BPL category and born on or after November 22, 2007. The amount of Rs.2000/- has been invested by Women Development Corporation, Patna, Bihar on behalf of the Government of Bihar in Fixed Deposits in UCO & IDBI Banks. On completion of 18 years, the amount equal to the maturity value will be paid to the girl child. In case of the death of a girl child during the intervening period, the amount will be paid back to Women Development Corporation, Bihar.

● **Kishori Shakti Yojana - Odisha (2007)**

Kishori Shakti Yojana under the ambit of ICDS aims at the empowerment and holistic development of adolescent girls by improving their self perception and creating opportunities for realizing their full potential through Balika Mandals. The scheme primarily aims at breaking the intergenerational life cycle of nutritional & gender disadvantage and providing a supportive environment for self development.

The objectives of the scheme are to assist girls between the ages of 11 and 18 in their studies and vocation, to make them aware of primary healthcare and hygiene, to give them a way to acquire broader knowledge and exposure to society, and to prepare them to be self-sufficient

● **MAMTA scheme for girl child - Goa (2011):**

The Govt. of Goa had launched a scheme "Financial Incentives to mothers who delivers a girl child "MAMTA" w.e.f. 1.4.2011. The amended Scheme is made effective with effect from 1st April 2015. The Scheme is applicable to mother who deliver a live girl child (maximum 02 deliveries) in the registered medical institution. Under the Scheme an amount of Rs. 10000/- shall be paid to all the mothers who delivers a girl child in the registered medical institution.

The scheme is aimed at improving the female Child Sex ratio in the State. Under the Scheme, an amount of Rs. 25,000/- (Rupees Twenty Five Thousand Only) shall be paid to the mothers who deliver a girl child with disbursal linked to 5 stages of Rs. 5,000/- each as follows provided relevant documents are enclosed:

● **Saraswati Bicycle Scheme - Chhattisgarh (2004-2005)**

Chhattisgarh Government has formulated an incentive scheme named "Saraswati Bicycle Supply Scheme (Free)" which was launched in 2004-05 with an objective to promote girls enrolment and reduce the dropout of girl child in the age group of 14-18 at secondary and senior secondary level.

Evaluation studies of the scheme indicate that Saraswati Bicycle Scheme" has become a boon for the girls students in-terms of their increasing enrolment and attendance in the schools because, they use to come to schools in the groups

by riding their bicycle. This scheme has impacted both in -terms of solving/reducing the security related concerns of the girls and their parents which in turn increased the enrolment and attendance of girls in class IX.

Both education & tribal welfare departments are the nodal agency at state level to decide the eligibility criteria of beneficiaries to be covered under this scheme. The coverage of beneficiaries by education departments includes all the class IX girls students who belongs to SC, ST and under BPL (OBC & Generals) whereas tribal welfare departments covers SC, ST, BPL and PTG (Primitive Tribal Groups).

● **Kanyashree Prakalpa - West Bengal (2012-2013)**

Kanyashree Prakalpa (KP), introduced by Government of West Bengal in 2012 is a unique Conditional Cash Transfer scheme which targets adolescent girls aged 13-19 years and offers a two-tier scholarship of an annual Rs 500 for continuing education (K1) and a one-time payment of Rs 25,000 on completion of 18 years.

Kanyashree Prakalpa (KP), introduced by Government of West Bengal in 2012 is a unique Conditional Cash Transfer scheme which targets adolescent girls aged 13-19 years and offers a two-tier scholarship of an annual Rs 500 for continuing education (K1) and a one-time payment of Rs 25,000 on completion of 18, conditional upon the girl remaining unmarried AND continuing education till that age (K2). The aim of this scheme is two-fold – to promote secondary education among females and to stop marriage of girls before the official age of 18.

● **Bhagyalaxmi scheme - Karnataka (2006-2007)**

The prime goal of this scheme of the Karnataka government is to promote the birth of girl children in below poverty line (BPL) families and to raise the status of the girl child in the family in particular and society in general. Financial assistance is provided to the girl child through her mother/father or natural guardian subject to the fulfillment of certain conditions.

Bhagyalakshmi scheme was launched during 2006-07 with an objective to promote the birth of girl children in below poverty line families and to raise the status of the girl child in the family in particular and society in general.

All girl children born to below poverty line (BPL) families after 31 March 2006 are eligible to take benefits under this scheme. The birth Enrolment should be done up to one year of the birth of the child on the submission of the birth certificate.

● **Rupashree Prakalpa- West Bengal (2018)**

Rupashree Prakalpa was launched by the Dept. of Women & Child development and Social Welfare, Govt. of West Bengal, on 1st April, 2018. Rupashree Prakalpa is a West Bengal state government initiative that provides a one-time financial grant of Rs. 25,000 for economically stressed families at the time of their adult daughters' marriages. The grant, to be provided under the name of "Rupashree Prakalpa", is aimed at mitigating the difficulties that poor families face in bearing the expenditure of their daughters' marriages, for which they often have to borrow money at very high interest rates.

Applicant must be a minimum of 18 years of age. Her prospective groom must be 21 years of age. Annual family income of the applicant must not exceed Rs. 1.5 lakhs. Rupashree Prakalpa is in effect from 01 April, 2018 and will be applicable for all marriages effected from 01 April, 2018. The scheme is implemented in all districts of West Bengal.

● **Sivagami Ammaiyar Memorial girl child protection scheme-Tamil nadu (1992):**

This scheme was launched in the year April 1992 in order to lift the status of the girl children in the society and to abolish the practice of female infanticide. In the fond memory of the then Chief minister of Tamilnadu “Thiru Kamarajar”, the scheme was renamed as Sivagami Ammaiyar ninaivu girl child protection scheme in the year 2006. By the year 31st March 2010, 6192 girl children in the State of Tamilnadu are benefited.

Sivagami Ammaiyar Memorial girl child protection scheme is being implemented by the Social Welfare and Nutritious Meal Programme Department, Government of Tamil Nadu to provide financial assistance to the girl children in poor families. The scheme is being implemented to Promote Family Planning, Eradicate Female Infanticide and Promote the welfare of girl children in poor families and to raise the status of girl children.

● **Nandadevi Kanya Yojana- Uttarakhand (2009):**

Under this scheme, a girl child born after 01.01. 2009 in the families living below poverty line is given an amount of Rs. 5000/- in the form of F.D. This benefit is payable to the maximum two girl child of a family. Nandadevi Kanya Yojana” has been started in the Uttarakhand state to stop gender inequality and girl foeticide, to discourage child marriage and to give financial security to girl child. Under this scheme, a girl child born after 01.01.2009 in the families living below poverty line is given an amount of Rs.5000/- in the form of F.D. This benefit is payable to the maximum two girl child of a family. At present an MoU has been signed with LIC under this scheme.

● **Scheme for Relief and Rehabilitation of Women Acid Victims-Haryana (2011)**

Haryana Government is implementing a scheme for Relief and Rehabilitation of Women Acid Victims under which the assistance is provided to the victims of acid attack, who are residents of Haryana and have become victims of acid attack in Haryana. A sum of Rs1.00 lakh is paid to acid victim within 15 days of occurrence of such incident as adhoc relief.

Under the state policy, an acid attack victim was eligible for financial assistance of Rs. 8000per month and such benefit was available to those who faced attack on or after May 2, 2011. However , now all acid attack victims would be eligible under the policy irrespective of such cutoff date but they need to Haryana residents.

ROLE OF NGOs TOWARDS WOMEN EMPOWERMENT:

Women Empowerment has been the primary focus for both government and most NGO’s. Voluntary action promoted by NGOs engaged in development play a significant role towards rural development which is dependent upon the active participation of the volunteers through Non-Government Organizations (NGO). The various roles of NGOs towards women empowerment are described below:-

- Educating the Rural Women
- Supplementation of Government Efforts
- Efforts Organizing the Rural Women
- Building various Model and Experiment
- Ensure Women’s Participation in their empowerment
- Mobilizing the optimum Resources
- Promoting Rural Leadership Representing the Rural Women
- Promoting Technology in Rural areas
- Providing effective & efficient Training to Rural Women.
- Monitoring and Evaluation.
- Impact assessment

List of few NGOs in Women's Empowerment:

- **SEWA (Self Employed Women's Association)-1972:** This NGO was started in the year 1972 in Gujarat. Ela Bhatt is the founder of this organisation for women empowerment and wanted to spread the awareness on the importance of women NGOs. The major motive of this organisation is to strengthen women by supporting them and giving them uniqueness as informal workers. Under this NGO, SEWA bank, SEWA movement and SEWA Bharat are the few organisations conducted. Currently the organisation has 1.9 billion women members who are active representing their rights.
- **Snehalaya-1989:** The NGO was recognized in the year 1989 in Maharashtra. This NGO supports women and also help children and LGBTQ communities with poverty. This NGO also helps to support the HIV patients to fight and end human trafficking. They organise various programs under this organisation such as providing enough space to women's in NGOs who can showcase their talents by making and selling their art, provides sanitary napkins and teaching them different languages.
- **NEN (North East Network)-1995:** This particular NGO was organised in the year 1995 as part of 'Beijing World Conference on Women.' The focus of this program is to give equality and human right to women. This organisation is not conducted in or two states but in various states such as Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, and various other parts of North East India. The name of the program itself says that the entire north east region of India is focused.
- **CREA-2000:** The foundation was started in the year 2000 in Delhi. This is organised by people who work at different levels, from the grassroots to an international level to help advance rights for all women and teenage girls, and giving all the right to choose their sexual and reproductive freedom for all females. The foundation not only focuses on India but most of the poor country where women are in the line of poverty. The organisation's motive is to "strengthen feminist leadership, strategies, and collective power for social transformation." They conducts public discussions, debates, events, and online and offline campaigns to make more alertness and to question conventional societal gender norms.
- **Azad Foundation – 2008:** The Azad Foundation is a professional feminist organization founded in 2008 that specifically works with resource-poor women living in urban areas in India. The Foundation provides opportunities for disadvantaged women to earn a livelihood as professional drivers and has trained hundreds of women since inception. The Foundation also trained and then employed the first ever female bus driver in Delhi. In total, the Azad Foundation has trained more than 1,800 women in a range of topics to including self-defense, sexual and reproductive health, basic first aid as well as map reading. The organization, which was founded in Delhi, has now expanded and has training centers in Jaipur and Kolkata. By offering training to women so that they can become professional drivers to earn a decent living, the Azad Foundation bolsters the economic status of underprivileged women while offering them the independence of self-reliance.
- **MAKAAM –2014:** Mahila Kisan Adhikaar Manch: MAKAAM is a forum for female farmers' rights that operates in 24 states in India. Even though women make up about 60 to 70 percent of the farming workforce in India, they only account for around 12 percent of landholdings. Since female farmers rarely own the land they work on, they are excluded from important support services provided by the government. However, MAKAAM seeks to empower female farmers by teaching them to assert their rights and gain ownership of their livelihoods and the natural resources that come with it.
- **Guria-1993:**

Guria is non-profit organization that is both dedicated to fighting child prostitution, second generation prostitution, and sex trafficking in Northern India, and to achieving freedom worldwide. Their aim is to have a world free of these vices, eradicating the slavery of women and their children in brothels, which they aim to achieve by ending their dependency on the criminal nexus involving drugs, sexual exploitation, mafias, police, politicians, and, above all, the impunity enjoyed by all those criminally involved.

Guria's approach is focused on rescue and legal intervention. Their strategy is to support ageing and former victims of sex trafficking and forced prostitution as well as adolescents so that they themselves do not become victims. Advocating for improvements in government policy and law enforcement pertaining to trafficking and prostitution is another major activity of Guria. They not only provide justice to survivors, but also work to

support them and rehabilitate them.

Guria was started in the year 1993 by Ajeet Singh. His journey into this foray started when he adopted three children of a woman from a red light area at the age of 17! The strong team of Guria work tirelessly to fight for justice against any form of sexual exploitation of women & children, especially forced prostitution & sex trafficking.

- **ActionAid India (1972) :**

ActionAid India is part of a global federation and a full affiliate of ActionAid International. Gauravi is the 24x7 one-stop crisis center of ActionAid. The center caters to domestic and sexual violence victims of any age including minor boys. The victims are provided with counseling, intervention, legal help, medical help, shelter home as well as social rehabilitation. Victims are not forced to take legal action and are provided with all the options. They provide counseling and also run a shelter home for women. Donating to this program will help women overcome their trauma through counseling.

- **Sayodhya (2010):**

SAYODHYA is an initiative started in 2010 by a group of women employees working with children at risk. We felt impelled to start this home after witnessing increased incidences of violence against women and their children, leading to destitution, desertion and homelessness. We established a short stay home which is a transit refuge center for women and children who are escaping range of abusive situations-physical, sexual and emotional, who have no social support systems to rely on, and also to rehabilitate them.

Sayodhya runs short stay home for women/young girls in distress and provides an emergency response through its 24 hours telephone helpline. In critical cases, they help women get legal justice by taking them to women protection cells where they explain the process and help women file cases. The shelter works closely with police and judicial officials to ensure that survivors have access to protection, entitlements and other legal measures to assist with employment opportunities, as well as skill development support, as and when needed. Donate now to help prevent gender-based violence against women.

- **Prerana (2003):**

PRERNA was started by a group of active and committed social workers in the year 2003. PRERNA is registered under the Indian Trust Act and FCR Act. PRERNA believes that each and every person is equal and they have every right to live in this world with dignity. The organization visualizes discrimination less society where no differences would be made on the basis of gender, caste, religion or regional origin. PRERNA mission is to educate, organize and empower poor, needy and marginalized for achieving social justice, economic growth and self-reliance.

Prerana works towards the rescue, protection, and rehabilitation of human trafficking victims. They work with various state governments to frame anti-human trafficking schemes and policies to rescue and rehabilitate victims. They also help with legal proceedings to restore their rights. Also, it provides survivors with psychological counseling. You can donate to this program and help in the rehabilitation of rescued human trafficking victims.

- **The Prajnya Trust(2008):**

The Prajnya Trust has been working since 2008 to prevent gender and sex-based violence against women. This NGO for women conducts workshops, facilitates discussions, provides legal advice and sensitizes service providers who might encounter cases of sexual violence at work. A donation to this NGO can help end the silence around gender violence.

- **Sakhya Women's Guidance Cell (1987):**

The main aim of Sakhya Women's Guidance Cell is to promote gender equality and gender justice through women empowerment. They hope to give women more autonomy through sensitization and spreading awareness. The organization offers victims of sexual abuse case counseling, referrals, legal aid, shelter, rehabilitation and accompany them to hospitals and legal institutes. Donating to this NGO for women, will help put an end to violence against women and provide justice to survivors.

- **Committee for Legal Aid to Poor (1982):**

CLAP, the acronym of Committee for Legal Aid to Poor, is the oldest Public Interest Law Organisation in India. It was founded in 1982 by eminent Sarvodaya Leader Shyam Sundar Das. The CLAP is a Society, registered under Societies Registration Act (Act XXI of 1860) as a non-profit making NGO which advances human right through use of law, legal process and legal system. It manages Legal Service Institute through which the activities of CLAP are given meaningful expression. The Headquarter of CLAP is based in the City of Cuttack in the State of Odisha in India.

Acid attacks are of the most gruesome and heinous of crimes committed against women. The Committee for Legal Aid to Poor was created to provide legal aid to the victims of this terrible crime. CLAP helps victims by monitoring court proceedings to ensure stringent punishment to wrongdoers, provides legal aid and helps claim compensation from the government and rehabilitates survivors. A donation to this program will help acid attack survivors seek justice.

- **International Foundation for Crime Prevention and Victim Care (2001):**

The International Foundation for Crime Prevention and Victim Care (PCVC) was founded in 2001 in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. PCVC creates and extends support services for women and queer individuals affected by domestic and interpersonal violence.

International Foundation for Crime Prevention and Victim Care was set up in response to the need for a support agency for victims and survivors of domestic violence. This NGO for women provides several necessary services like crisis management, legal advocacy, support and resource services. PCVC started the national domestic violence hotline to help women who are struggling with different forms of abuse. The organization also provides victims with legal representatives and support through referrals. Donating to PCVC can help dismantle the culture of violence against women.

Conclusion:

women empowerment means to the creation of an environment for personal benefits as well as for society. women also should be given equal rights like men to actually empower them. They need to be strong, aware, and alert every time for their growth and development. The government of India, by passing timely acts and implementing rules and regulations trying to empower the women. The effect of women employment on family and society is more evident in situations where women possess higher levels of employment and income. The empowerment of women employees is also higher when they are at high levels of employment. No doubt, the government of India has many weapons to fight for women empowerment.

Women across the world have been oppressed due to a lot of reasons dating back to the ancient age. However, society also demands women to be an active part. The Women Empowerment Schemes in India help to uplift women in every possible sphere.

Finally we conclude that Central Government, State Governments and NGO plays a vital role towards women empowerment in India. So rising awareness of various schemes for women is necessary that they can take this advantages.

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